

EASTERN ROADS OPEN WAGE DRIVE

Labor Board Shown Evidence of Living Costs and Other Wage Scales.

93 LINES REPRESENTED

Pennsylvania Asks Reductions Affecting 135,000 Employees.

CITES OTHER INDUSTRIES

Labor Paid Less in Outside Industries Than on Roads.

Elisha Lee Says.

CHICAGO, April 18.—Eastern railroads, appearing before the United States Railroad Labor Board, opened their drive today for sweeping wage reductions for all unskilled labor, and, in some instances, for shop and train service employees. Five days of five hours each will be occupied by each side. Ninety-three roads are represented at the hearing.

The board decided to proceed immediately despite the three vacancies, since five members, a quorum, remain. Scores of exhibits, most of them dealing with the cost of living and wages for similar labor in other industries, were filed with the board as carrier after carrier laid its evidence before the board this afternoon. Nearly two score roads had finished their presentation when the day's session adjourned.

In opening their plea for wage reductions, the carriers declared there had been a widespread reduction of wages of from 10 to 20 per cent, and that the cost of living had receded steadily for several months.

The New England roads presented through O. L. Bardo, general manager of the New Haven, a report from the Massachusetts Commission on the Necessities of Life, which showed a 25.3 per cent, reduction in the cost of living since July, 1920.

Hourly wages on New England lines, as quoted by Mr. Bardo, had increased from 15 to 45 cents since 1914. "It will therefore be seen," he concluded, "that the increase in basic hourly rates and weekly compensation varies between 140 and 230 per cent, whereas the increased cost of living at its peak was 102.6 over 1914 and is now 66 per cent, higher than in 1914."

R. L. Parsons of the Erie requested for his road that the wage of April 30, 1920, be placed in effect and that the board suspend its wage decision of July, 1920, pending reestablishment of reasonable wages. The rates named were those in effect just prior to the 1920 wage decision, which became effective May 1, 1920. Mr. Erie would make the board's new decision retroactive if the old scale did not meet the new decision. Mr. Parsons said.

Elisha Lee, of the Pennsylvania Eastern lines, asked reductions affecting 135,000 employees, following conferences with practically all employees except the train service men. The Pennsylvania asked that rates of pay varying territorially be established. Mr. Lee said: "He submitted an exhibit compiled from a study of 1,235 plants, which showed, he said, that the rates paid in outside industries were 'generally below' those proposed for Pennsylvania employees."

Mr. Lee also presented an exhibit showing the comparative cost of living at points on the Pennsylvania.

More than a score of other roads, including the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, Central of New Jersey, Hocking Valley, Baltimore and Ohio and other Eastern roads, submitted exhibits through J. G. Fisher, the bureau of information of Eastern railroads.

VENUE CHANGE PLEA HEARD

Decision Reserved in Case of 33 Indicted Plumbers.

Supreme Court Justice McAvoy reserved decision yesterday on an application for a change of venue for the trial of thirty-three indicted plumbers and plumbers' supply dealers accused of conspiracy, after listening to the arguments of Martin Conboy, their counsel, and William A. De Ford, special Deputy Attorney-General. Mr. Conboy contended that the publication of an article in a morning newspaper intimating that arrangements were made whereby some of the indicted men might get off with fines if they pleaded guilty prejudiced the community against his clients.

Mr. De Ford recited that a retraction of the article had been published, that the men responsible had been cited for contempt and apologized, and that just as wide circulation had been given to these items as to the original article.

OPEN SHOP GETS ONE STRIKER

NORTAMPTON, Mass., April 18.—Of the 500 building trades workers who have been out on strike against a reduction in wages since April 4 only one man, a painter, so far as could be learned, returned to work today under the announced establishment of open shop working conditions by the local contractors.

CARPET PLANT REOPENS

THOMPSONVILLE, Conn., April 18.—The plant of the Bigelow Hartford Carpet Company, which has been closed since March 14 as the result of the refusal of the 2,200 employees to accept a wage reduction, was reopened today without the slightest disturbance.

CELESTINS VICHY

Owned by and bottled under the direct control of the French Government

Natural Alkaline Water

Used at meals prevents Dyspepsia and relieves Gout, Indigestion and Uric Acid.

Ask your Physician

Note the Name

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SCHOONER, STUCK ON SHOAL, RUNS AWAY WITHOUT CREW

All Hands Leave, Expecting Vessel to Break Up, When She Suddenly Heads for Sea and Gives Men a Lively Chase Before Recapture.

SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.—NORFOLK, Va., April 18.—A game of cat and mouse, played by a four-masted schooner, all sail set, in a south-east gale off Cape Lookout, is contained in the experiences of Capt. R. E. Ramsey, who finally overtook his elusive ship and saw her safely into Hampton Roads.

His schooner, the James E. Newson, now lies at Colonnade's marine railway, where she was docked by the tug I. J. Merritt, which towed the ship to Norfolk. She is practically undamaged, and her runaway tactics will cost her owners hardly more than the price of a couple of toasts, blown away, and the bill for taking a few of her seas. Capt. Ramsey is undoubtedly the happiest ship master who ever made this port, and Mrs. Ramsey, who was aboard with her canary and dog and crew of eight, registers joy.

The schooner was bound from Kilkenny, Ga., to Fall River with 516,000 feet of lumber when she ran into nasty weather below Cape Lookout last Wednesday. Mistaking the lighthouse at Cape Lookout for the lightship, she headed close to the coast. At 2 A. M. Thursday she struck the shoals about

PAPER WORKERS VOTE AGAINST BIG WAGE CUT

Proposal of Manufacturers Is Rejected.

ALBANY, April 18.—Reports received at the headquarters of the International Brotherhood of Paper Workers from 70 per cent of the local unions in the United States and Canada indicate that the members of the organization voted almost unanimously yesterday for rejection of the wage reduction of 30 per cent proposed by the manufacturers as a condition of a new working agreement to become effective May 1. Announcement regarding the progress of the voting was made today by Jeremiah T. Carey, international president of the brotherhood.

Other proposals of the manufacturers included a nine-hour day in place of eight hours, no overtime pay, elimination of yard men from the contract and the right of either side to resume negotiations on ninety days notice.

BLAMES HIGH PRICES ON OPEN COMPETITION

Such Associations Criminal, Says Untermyer.

High prices are due to so-called "open competition associations" in almost every line of business, the function of which is to keep competition out and prevent the operation of economic laws. This is the conclusion of Samuel Untermyer, counsel for the Lockwood committee which revealed conditions prevailing in the building trades.

"I regard every one of these associations as a criminal conspiracy that must be dispensed with without further temporizing or delay if there is to be anything approaching competition," Mr. Untermyer said.

He characterized as unfounded the assertion by President Harding in his message to Congress that these associations are evidently within the law, and said this statement is "the most surprising, discouraging and demoralizing development in the whole business."

KANSAS ASKS HOWAT'S APPEAL BE DISMISSED

Supreme Court Gets Brief in Miners' Conviction.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—The State of Kansas asked the Supreme Court today to dismiss the appeal of Alexander Howat, president of the Kansas Miners' Union, and five other union officers from convictions in State courts for contempt in calling strikes in violation of an injunction issued by those courts. It was asserted that the calling of the strikes was in the nature of a test of strength between the Howat forces and the Kansas Court of Industrial Relations.

The State in its brief said that the Supreme Court was without jurisdiction in the case. Howat's appeal attacked the validity of the law establishing the industrial court.

The mine officials were sentenced to one year's imprisonment.

PAINTERS WON'T REDUCE

PHILADELPHIA, April 18.—The Philadelphia District Council of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, claiming to represent 7,000 workmen in this city, Chester and Camden, N. J., declared to-night to call a strike on May 1 if the employers attempt to enforce wage reduction announced for that date.

The report declared employers not only could grant a wage increase of \$1,000 a year to each worker, but could cut prices to the consumer 17 per cent, and still make a fair return on their investment. The living wage level, according to the report, is \$2.35 a year, while the average annual earnings of painters were shown to be \$1.35.

Only a few pieces were missing from the collection, which at the time of the theft was said to be valued at \$12,000.

COHASSET, Mass., April 18.—Valuable jewelry found by spy was hidden last Saturday was identified to-night as having been stolen from the summer home here of Edward D. Bayley, of Boston, in August, 1911.

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BERGDOLL ESCAPE TO BE INVESTIGATED

House Unanimously Authorizes Congressional Inquiry as to Slacker's Move.

SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.—WASHINGTON, D. C., April 18.

The House today unanimously authorized investigation of the escape of G. C. Bergdoll, draft dodger of Philadelphia. The inquiry was sought to ascertain how the slacker obtained permission to leave the military prison at Fort Jay, N. Y., to hunt for a pot of gold which he said was buried "somewhere in Maryland," how he escaped from two army sergeants at his home in Philadelphia, how he succeeded in reaching Germany and the circumstances surrounding his attempted capture there.

One of the main purposes of the inquiry will be to determine what official influence was brought to obtain the order for Bergdoll's release from prison. The investigation will be made by a special committee of five to be appointed by Speaker Gillett, and the resolution authorizes it "to procure all facts necessary to fix the responsibility for the escape."

In urging the investigation Representative Kahn (Cal.), chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, declared the circumstances regarding the attempted capture of the deserter in Germany should be investigated.

"One bit of information that I got was that a Lieutenant, who had been in the emergency army, had stated that he had captured Bergdoll in Berlin and called attention to the fact that Bergdoll was there, and he suggested, I am informed, that efforts ought to be made to bring him to the American line," Mr. Kahn said. "The officers who were about this Lieutenant suggested to him that he had better forget all about it. Now it might be necessary to bring that Lieutenant to Washington to testify. It might be necessary to bring quite a number of witnesses to testify. It is not going to be an easy task to get at all the facts, but the committee should have full authority to send for persons and papers, to go into every fact as deeply as possible and once for all lay the responsibility for the escape on the proper persons."

MURDER CONFESSION BY MRS. WERNER HINTED

Will Figure Before Jury Now Being Selected.

SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.—UTICA, April 18.—Indications to-day were that several days would be required for the selection of a jury before Justice Irving R. Devendorf in Herkimer for the trial of Mrs. Jennie Werner, charged with first degree murder. It is charged she influenced Ruggie B. Warder to kill her husband last February. Her mother, Mrs. Alvin Woodbridge, also indicted for plotting the crime, will be tried later. Warder is in Sing Sing awaiting the death penalty.

Questioning of jurors indicated that a "confession" by Mrs. Werner, in which she told of helping Warder to burn his moccasins and otherwise destroy evidence, would figure prominently in the trial. Among many jurors excused was Senator Theodore Douglas Robinson of Warren.

WANTS TO INVESTIGATE MEXICAN OIL SITUATION

Secretary Fall Charges British With Unfair Methods.

NEW YORK HERALD BUREAU.—WASHINGTON, D. C., April 18. Charges made by Secretary Fall that British interests were using unfair methods in relation to the oil controversy in Mexico will result in a complete investigation of the oil situation in that country. No effort is made here to disguise the fact that the attitude of the Mexican Government toward American owners of oil properties is regarded as vital.

It is understood here that charges that the Aguilar Company of Mexico is a British concern and has been receiving preferential treatment, have drawn forth an informal statement from the British embassy that the Aguilar Company is not a British company.

Secretary Fall's statement is expected to precipitate a solution of the Mexican-American relations so that the property rights of Americans may be placed on an equitable basis.

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NEW YORK HERALD BUREAU.—WASHINGTON, D. C., April 18.

HARDING COMES TO HONOR BOLIVAR

Will Speak at Unveiling of Statue of Spanish American Liberator.

NEW YORK WILL SEE WARREN HARDING

to-day for the first time since his election to the Presidency. He will be here to speak at the unveiling of a statue of Simon Bolivar, the Spanish-American Liberator, in Central Park.

President Harding will arrive at the Pennsylvania Station from Washington at 2:30 P. M. and will go to the Waldorf-Astoria, where the Venezuelan delegation will give a luncheon in honor of the Mayor and other city officers. He will then be escorted to Bolivar Hill in Central Park. He will ride up Fifth avenue and turn into the park at Seventy-second street. The ceremonies of unveiling will start at 4 o'clock. The President will be the last speaker, following Gov. Miller. He will return to Washington soon after completing his address, but may stop on his way down town to visit the Lighthouse of the New York Association for the Blind, 111 East Fifty-ninth street.

Charles E. Hughes, Secretary of State, other members of the Cabinet, many diplomats and a special delegation from Venezuela, headed by Dr. Esteban Gil Borges, Minister of Foreign Relations, will attend the unveiling. The public

will be admitted to the park lawn between Eighty-third and Eighty-fifth streets, north of the statue. United States marines, soldiers and sailors, and a detachment from the Brazilian battleship Minas Geraes will escort the Presidential party from the Waldorf to the park, where a squad of the First Battery, New York State Guard, will fire the Presidential salute.

Two children will pull the cords and expose the Bolivar statue to public view. They are Patricia Paz MacManus, seven years old, and her sister, Marquita Paz MacManus, daughters of Seamus MacManus and great-granddaughters of Gen. Jose Antonio Paz, who was an associate of Gen. Bolivar in the wars for freedom in Venezuela and other Latin American countries.

The statue is presented to the city of New York by the people of Venezuela. It is by Sallie James Farnham, who designed bronze friezes illustrating events in South and Central America, which ornament the governing board room in the Pan-American Building, Washington.

HARDING TO REVIEW FLEET

Will Inspect Ships Returning From Cuba Off Virginia.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—President Harding accepted to-night the invitation of Secretary Denby to review the Atlantic fleet April 28 off the Virginia Capes on its return from Cuban waters. He will leave here on the Presidential yacht Mayflower the evening of April 27 and return immediately after reviewing the fleet arriving here April 29.

Details of the plans for the trip were being worked out to-night and are expected to be announced to-morrow.

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